

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

REPORT

SUBJECT Order of Battle of the 1st Company
of the 1st Battalion of the 5th Border
Guard Brigade

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report dealing with the order of battle of the 1st Company, located at Winkel (N 50-18, E 12-33), of the 1st Battalion of the 5th Border Guard Brigade. The report contains information on the organization of the unit, weapons and equipment available, description of the sector guarded by the company, the modus operandi in patrolling the border, and personalities. Border obstacles and watchtowers are pinpointed on an accompanying map overlay in the scale of 1:25,000.

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CZECHOSLOVAKIA**Military/Political****Order of Battle of the 1st Frontier Guard Company at VINKL. of 1st Frontier Guard Battalion of the 5th Frontier Guard Brigade at CHEB****1. Organisation**

- a) The 1st Company at VINKL is subordinate to the 1st Battalion, HRANICE, (ROSSBACH), which is part of the 5th Frontier Guard Brigade at CHEB. The Brigade CO is Lieutenant-Colonel KROH.
- b) The sector guarded by the Company is the North-west corner of the frontier from boundary stone No. 3 to stone No. 13.
- c) The Company numbers 30 national servicemen, 2 officers and 1 regular NCO, and is distributed as follows:

Special Duties Section: 2 cooks, 1 despatch rider, 1 carter, 3 dog trainers, 1 radio operator - signaller

Weapons include 2 model 24 7.62 mm machine carbines and 6 model 52 7.62 mm self-loading rifles

HMG Section: CO, firer, loader, ammunition carrier.

Weapons: 1 GORUNKOV 7.62 mm HMG
3 model 24 7.62 mm machine carbines
2 model 52 7.62 mm self-loading rifles.

No. 1 Infantry Section: CO (an NCO) LMG firer, LMG loader, anti-tank gun firer, anti-tank gun ammunition carrier; first shot and 4 other firers.

Weapons: 1 model 52 7.62 mm LMG
1 Czechoslovak type anti-tank gun
4 model 52 (?) machine carbines
6 model 52 7.62 mm self-loading rifles.

No. 2 Infantry Section: distribution and weapons as for No. 1 Section.

- d) The personnel from the Special Duties Section supplement Nos 1 and 2 Sections in action.

2. Weapons and equipment

- a) 1 GORUNKOV 7.62 mm HMG
2 model 52 7.62 mm LMGs
2 Czechoslovak type anti-tank guns
2 model 52 7.62 mm self-loading rifles
11 model 24 7.62 mm machine carbines
3 model 52 7.62 mm pistols
20 flare pistols

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- b) 2 short-wave transmitting and receiving sets
 1 telephone switchboard
 15 telephones
 10 pairs of handcuffs

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- c) 1 250 cc JAWA motorcycle
 2 cart horses
 3 dogs

3. Description of the sector guarded by the Company

a) The sector guarded by the Company is the part of the frontier near AS which juts out North-west. The jutting-out section of the wire barrier has however been cut out, shortening the sector from 6 km to 2,400 m. The section which has been cut off is uninhabited and guard parties are sent out to inspect it, but the main guard duties are carried out alongside the barrier. The Northern half of the sector guarded by the 1st Company forms part of the frontier between Eastern Germany and Czechoslovakia.

b) The Frontier Guard authorities presume that crossings in this sector will be numerous, since those who are attempting to cross pass first of all

[redacted] into Eastern Germany and then try to enter Czechoslovakia from Eastern Germany by penetrating the North-west sector at AS.

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For this reason, the section of frontier ^{with} Eastern Germany is guarded in the same manner [redacted] and a check is kept

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on the road near HAZLOV and the trains.

c) The whole area guarded by the 1st Frontier Guard Company is within the Frontier Zone, in which regular checking of all persons is carried out. The villages of DOLNI and HORNÍ TROJMEZI are still inhabited by civilians, which means that these live about 800 m from the wire barrier.

d) People living in this region have special passes, postcard size, with a green stripe. Movement of persons in this area is relatively considerable but there is very frequent checking, especially of persons who are not known there, since all the people living there know one another and are known to the Frontier Guard.

4. Delimitation of the sector

- a) Left-hand contact point (A)

This point is at the Southern extremity of the sector, at boundary stone 3, adjoining the sector guarded by No. 2 Company, also subordinate to the 1st Battalion, HRANICE. Contact takes place at the observation

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post on the North side of the road leading through DOLNI TROJMEZI to boundary stone No. 3.

b) Right-hand contact point (B)

This is the Northern extremity of No. 1 Company's Sector, where it adjoins that of No. 7 Company, also subordinate to the 1st Battalion, HRANICE, and the contact point is at boundary stone No. 13, and the tower near the wire barrier, North-east of LENKOVA KOVARNA (LENKSCHMEDE), near the pond by the road leading through the wood to the boundary stone.

5. System of guard duties

a) The two contact points are manned throughout the 24 hours, the left-hand point alternately by Nos 1 and 2 Companies, relieving one another every 14 days, and the right-hand point exclusively by No. 1 Company.

b) The tower at the point where the frontier juts out, near KAISERHAMMER, trig point 659 m, is usually manned throughout the day, in good visibility, by a guard whose duties are not only to guard his sector, but also to watch German territory. At night this guard is transferred to KAISERHAMMER near the point where East German and Czechoslovak territory meet.

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c) The guard on the Company HQ is stationed in an observation post in the top of a tree, the only one at the wire barrier, about 100 m from the HQ.

d) At dawn a two-member guard party patrols along the entire wire fence.

e) At night there is a guard on duty at what is known as the "Dreiländer-eck", the point where Czechoslovak and East German territory meet, near boundary stone No. 18.

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f) A guard is sometimes, but not always, posted at the ROSSEBACH - KAISERHAMMER and RABSTEITEN - DOLNI TROJMEZI crossroads. Another post at the gate on the main ROSSEBACH - KAISERHAMMER road is sometimes manned.

g) There is a permanent guard of two at night on the Company HQ, and the LENKOVA KOVARNA (LENKSCHMEDE) post is also constantly manned. Two patrols go out along the wire barrier at night, at 21 hours and after midnight.

h) A two-member guard party is sent out along the road in the direction of ROSSEBACH during the night.

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1) Guard parties with dogs are usually sent out in the evening and towards morning to keep a check on the ploughed strip.

6. Personalities

a) CO of 1st Battalion, HRANICE: Captain TOMES, fnu, [redacted]

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b) Political 2 i/c: Senior Lieutenant NEMCEK, fnu, [redacted]

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c) Political officer: Captain CERNY, fnu, [redacted]

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d) Supply officer: Captain KYSELY, fnu, [redacted]

Officers with the Battalion

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e) Captain SIXTA, fnu, [redacted]

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f) Captain CERNEL, fnu, [redacted]

g) CO of 1st Company, VINKL: Senior Lieutenant MOTEJL, Vlastimil, [redacted]

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h) 2 i/c: Senior Lieutenant DUFEK, Ondrej, [redacted]

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i) Company Sergeant Major: Sergeant KRENEK, Jan, [redacted]

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7. Layout of sector (see sketch)

1) Wire barrier, with electric current carried on the middle wire, on seven insulators. This new fencing has replaced the former barrier which was much nearer the state boundary. To the South, the barrier is level with DOLNI TROJMEZI, about 150 to 200 m from the frontier, and from there it takes a bend North-wards and turns East to touch the edge of the wood and cross the ROSSBACH - KAISERHAMMER road. It then runs in the direction of a small pond near LENKOVA myslivna (hunting lodge). On the German side of the wire barrier there is a ploughed strip about 4 m wide.

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- 2) Company HQ, in the former village of WINKEL (VINKL), about 250 m. from the barrier, consisting of two wooden white-washed huts, one of which contains Company office and quarters and the other stores and kitchen, and a log house where the officers are quartered. There is also a stable and wooden dog kennels. The whole HQ is surrounded by a wire fence.
- 3) Observation posts, three in number along the wire barrier, the two contact points, (A) and (B), with towers about 14 m high, and the post in the tree where there is a bend in the wire barrier, West of the Company HQ. There is another tower 25 m high, near KAISERHAMMER, at trig point 659 m., and one old disused tower at trig point 573 m.
- 4) Four gates in the wire barrier, two at the contact points, one on the road to LENKSCHMIEDE and one on the ROSSBACH-KAISERHAMMER road. There is one tunnel near the left-hand contact point (A), which is half blocked up and therefore not used.

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